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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

REPORT
on the
Health of Oldbury

For the Year 1960





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Borough



of Oldbury

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1960.

Medical Officer of Health:

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.

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Oldbury

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

ALDERMAN F. W. THOMPSON, J.P., *Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR W. CARTER, *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN A. GUNN, C.C.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR J. G. DAVIES.

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. GARRATT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR F. A. PHIPPS.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. PINE.

COUNCILLOR G. H. PRICE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE, C.C.

OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

County Council Representatives:

MR. J. W. BRIGHT, J.P., C.A.

MRS. E. M. GOODE, C.C.

MR. J. M. C. HIGGS, C.C.

MAJOR M. F. S. JEWELL, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

MR. H. PARKES, J.P., C.A.

MR. S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman.*

Oldbury Borough Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN A. GUNN, C.C.

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN F. W. THOMPSON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR W. CARTER.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P., C.C.

Co-opted Members:

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE, C.C.

(representing the Oldbury Committee for Education).

MRS. W. S. PETERS

(representing the Women's Voluntary Service).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. THORPE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Resigned 25.9.60).

Assistant Medical Officer:

Divisional Dental Officer:

JAMES RODGERS, D.F.M., L.D.S., R.F.P.S.
(Resigned 14.5.60).

ALMA M. FACER, L.D.S. (Part-time).

Ophthalmic Specialist (Part-time):

GUY F. G. SIGGINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.i.)

Deputy Chief—F. W. KEENE, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.k.)

Additional—F. J. ANDREWS, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

E. N. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

C. C. WILKES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

J. A. JEAVONS (a.)

R. A. MADDOCK (a) (Commenced 1.8.60).

Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:

Miss M. R. CLARKE, (c.d.e.)

Health Visitor—School Nurses:

Miss H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.) Miss B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.)

Miss M. LEE (c.d.e.) (Resigned 7.1.60).

MRS. J. BUTLER (c.d.e.).

MRS. J. MORETON (c.d.e.) (Commenced 1.2.60).

Tuberculosis Visitor:

MRS. A. MURRAY (c.).

Senior Midwife/District Nurse:

Miss E. F. E. MONK (c.d.e.j.)

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE M. M. BISHOP (d.e.)	NURSE K. STENNETT (d.e.f.)
„ B. EWINGS (d.e.)	(Resigned 31.7.60)
„ H. GALLAGHER (d.)	„ A. M. WILLIAMS (d.)

District Nurses:

MRS. S. J. GALLAGHER (e.)	MRS. E. DAVIES (g)
„ E. L. YARRANTON (g.)	(Commenced 13.6.60)
(Resigned 27.8.60)	„ A. OLDHAM (e.j.)
„ L. I. BAKER (g.)	(Resigned 5.10.60)
MISS M. BASTERFIELD (g.)	„ F. R. SNOW (g.)
MRS. M. O'BRIEN (e.j)	(Commenced 28.11.60)

Clerical Staff:

HEALTH:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY	Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON
MISS M. E. HOLMES	MISS E. YORK
(Shorthand-Typist)	„ I. THOMAS
„ S. PARTINGTON	„ J. A. SMITH

SANITARY:

Chief Clerk—F. W. HACKETT (Resigned 21.5.60)	
L. WHITTARD (Commenced 1.7.60)	
MRS. M. A. JAMES	A. G. SABIN
(Shorthand-Typist)	J. CUTLER, Cleansing Depot,
MISS E. A. HACKETT	(Weighbridge Clerk)
(Commenced 10.10.60)	

NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Public Health Inspectors' Certificate.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Society of Health.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) State Registered Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h)
- (i) Honours Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene.
- (j) Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (k) Holds the Smoke Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Society of Health.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.**For the Year 1960.**

**To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the Borough for the year 1960.

This is the last full year during which the Area Health Sub-Committee administered the personal health services on behalf of the County Council. The Minister of Health has approved the scheme for the delegation of Health and Welfare Services to the Borough of Oldbury and these services will be administered by a Health and Welfare Committee of the Council from April 1st, 1961. In regaining the administration of these services, which passed to the County Council in 1948, the Borough Council will be in a more favourable position to assess and meet the needs of the people of Oldbury subject to the approval by the County Council of its annual estimates.

Vital Statistics.

The birth-rate in the Borough continues to rise and was 14.22 per 1,000 of the population in 1960. The infant mortality rate remains at a satisfactory level despite the increase in births. The standardised death-rate shows a slight reduction from 13.91 to 13.39 per 1,000 of the population as compared with the previous year. These figures give cause for satisfaction with the state of the health of the Borough. But there is one disturbing feature—

although the total deaths from Cancer remained the same as the previous year (and this was the highest yearly total ever recorded in Oldbury) the number of deaths from cancer of the lung increased from 24 to 31, an increase of 30 per cent. It is also very striking that all the deaths were of men. This should prove a valuable clue in the search for the cause of this disease. The only incontrovertible evidence we have at present is that which incriminates cigarettes. Figures collected in many parts of the world have now proved beyond reasonable doubt that the incidence of cancer of the lung is far higher among cigarette smokers than in the rest of the population. Unfortunately, knowledge of this risk does not appear to act as a deterrent to those who suffer from this pernicious habit.

Infectious Diseases.

The report from Dr. Mayfield, the Chest Physician, is evidence that we are moving towards the final elimination of Tuberculosis, but there must be no relaxation in the efforts of all those concerned with the control of this disease until it has been finally eradicated.

There was no undue incidence of any other infectious disease and no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. The level of immunisation against these two diseases is high among the school children in the Borough. There are still far too many children who arrive at school not having had protective injections in infancy. It cannot be too often stressed that mothers should ensure that their babies are given full protection either by their own doctors or at the Clinics.

Nursing Services.

Vacancies which have occurred in all three branches of these services—Health Visitors, Midwives and District Nursing—have sometimes been difficult to fill and have imposed additional burdens on the existing staff. This is one of the difficulties engendered by a small establishment and credit must be given to the Nurses for maintaining a high level of service despite these set-backs.

During the year arrangements were made for an interchange of visits to be made by nurses working in the West Bromwich Group of Hospitals and those working in the Oldbury Health Ser-

vice, so that each may learn something of their colleague's activities and problems. It is to be hoped that this liaison will be of considerable benefit to the nurses and to the public they serve.

Psychiatric Clinic.

It would be of great advantage to local doctors and their patients if out-patient facilities were available in the Borough for the mentally ill. The Area Health Sub-Committee have expressed their willingness to provide facilities for such a clinic to be held at premises adjoining the Health Department. The establishment of such a clinic at a time when the Mental Health Services are being delegated to Oldbury, providing as it would, a close link between the Hospitals, General Practitioners and Local Health Authority, would be of considerable value in the organisation of a Mental Health Service for the Borough.

Aids for the Handicapped.

Items of equipment to assist handicapped or sick persons at home can be made available on loan. These may vary from bed-rests and bed-pans to more expensive equipment such as special nursing mattresses, hoists or walking apparatus, all designed to assist in the treatment and rehabilitation of the disabled.

They are usually provided on a recommendation of the Doctor or District Nurse in attendance, but applications made to the Health Department are met whenever the need is established.

Housing.

Progress with the clearance of unfit houses was again retarded by the limited number of dwellings which were completed during the year—only 80 compared with 106 during the previous year. The number of houses and flats in course of erection at the close of the year, namely 315, is welcome evidence that we may hope for more rapid progress in the future.

Chiropody Service.

The care of the feet is of very great importance in helping elderly people to remain ambulant and active. The service in Oldbury, which commenced on April 1st, provides for sessions to be held every two weeks at each of the clinics at Warley, Langley and Oldbury. The service is available to all those of pensionable age on recommendation by their own doctor and also to handicapped persons of any age. A small charge is made for treatment,

but this can be remitted in cases of hardship. For example, no charge is made to anyone in receipt of a supplementary allowance from the National Assistance Board. Since its inauguration the service has been working to full capacity and is meeting a long-felt need.

Meals-on-Wheels Service.

This is another service which is helping to bring comfort to, and improve the health of the elderly and disabled, who are anxious to maintain an independent existence in their own homes. The preparation and distribution of the meals is carried out by the Women's Voluntary Service with the aid of a grant from the County Council. The Borough Council have made themselves responsible for the provision of transport and the services of a driver. During the year 9,061 meals were served, a great tribute to the useful endeavours of the Women's Voluntary Service.

Clinics.

The attendances at Child Welfare Clinics continue to be well maintained and the average attendances per session show an increase over the previous year. The need for further clinics to serve the newly developing housing estates has been considered, but it seems probable that their provision will be considerably delayed.

The attendances at ante-natal clinics on the other hand, continue to diminish, and one must assume that this work is being adequately undertaken by the general practitioners and hospitals. If the peri-natal mortality rate is to be taken as a reflection of the efficacy of the maternity services being provided there is no room for complacency. The need for the establishment of a Committee to co-ordinate the Maternity Services provided by the Hospitals, General Practitioners and Local Authority is long overdue. If such a Committee were to reach the conclusion that all the functions of a local authority ante-natal clinic were now being adequately exercised by the other two branches of the Health Services, serious consideration should be given to discontinuing these clinics.

Staff.

Dr. Thorpe left in September to take up another appointment and the appointment of his successor to the post of Deputy Medi-

cal Officer of Health has not yet been made. Fortunately, it has been possible to maintain the staffing of the clinics by the part-time employment of General Practitioners on a sessional basis.

The appointment of a successor to the Divisional Dental Officer, Mr. Rodgers, who left in May to take up a senior appointment in Oxfordshire, had not been made at the close of the year, with the result that dental care of mothers and young children had to be discontinued.

It has not been possible to fill the vacancies on the establishment for one Health Visitor and one Midwife.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help and understanding I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and of the Area Health Sub-Committee, and to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the staff of the Health Department, medical, nursing and clerical, for their loyal co-operation, and to my colleagues in other Departments, who have been helpful at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY TABBUSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health and Welfare Department,
Greenwood Avenue,
Langley, Oldbury.

June, 1961.

Tel. No.: BROadwell 2041/2

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	" The Hollies," Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	" The Hollies," Langley	Alternate Thurs., 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Alternate Wed., 2 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	" The Hollies," Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri., 9—4-30 p.m. Wednesday, 9—12 noon.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Daily, 9—5 p.m.	do.
M. & C.W.	do.	Monday, 6-30 p.m.	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Friday, 9 a.m. Alternate Wed. 1-30 p.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	" The Hollies," Langley	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic,	Monday, 10 a.m.	do.
Chest Clinic	Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 11—12-30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m. Friday, 11—12 noon	do.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	3,304
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1960)	...	...	...	55,440
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	53,887
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.60	...	...	...	16,545
Rateable Value (1st April, 1960)	...	...	...	£699,001
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£2,880
General Rate—1959-60	...	...	...	20s. 0d.
Unemployment—31st December, 1960:—				
Wholly unemployed—				
Men and Boys	...	...	...	76
Women and Girls	...	...	...	34
Temporary stoppage—				
Men and Boys	...	...	...	168
Women and Girls	...	...	...	27

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	...	421	364	785
	Illegitimate	...	18	18	36
	Totals	...	439	382	821

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	14.82
Area Comparability-Factor (Births)	...	0.96	Standardised Birth-rate ... 14.22
Still-births	...	21	Rate per 1,000 total births 24.94
Deaths	...	523	Death-rate (Crude) ... 9.43
Area Comparability-Factor (Deaths)	...	1.42	Standardised Death-rate 13.39

			Rate per 1000 Births (Live and Still)
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth was Nil	...	...	—
Death-rates of Infants under one year:—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	(18)	21.92
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	...	(17)	21.65
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	...	(1)	27.77
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	107
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1

3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Live Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales	...	...	...	17.1	11.5
OLDBURY	...	...	...	14.22	13.39

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 55,440 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Mid-1960. The "natural increase of population," that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 298.

DEATHS.

In 1960, 296 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. 10 of these deaths were persons not normally resident in the district, and 237 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 523, representing a crude death rate of 9.43 per thousand of the estimated population and a standardised death rate of 13.39 per thousand of the population. The corresponding figures for 1959 were 542 total deaths, a crude death rate of 9.79, and a standardised death rate of 13.91.

Of the 523 deaths, 18 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 21.92 per thousand live births. In 1959 there were 17 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 21.76 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	161	deaths equivalent to a death rate of 2.904
Cancer	107	„ „ „ „ 1.929
Vascular Lesions	86	„ „ „ „ 1.551
Bronchitis	35	„ „ „ „ 0.631
Pneumonia	22	„ „ „ „ 0.396
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2	„ „ „ „ 0.036

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

HEART DISEASE.

Of the 161 deaths recorded as due to heart disease, 130 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 2 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.

CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past seventeen years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37	..	..	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	..	..	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	..	..	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	..	..	5	43	45
1950	53,820	49	36	85	1.57	1	..	7	33	45
1951	53,740	39	36	75	1.39	1	..	5	36	33
1952	53,790	46	36	82	1.52	1	1	5	33	42
1953	53,820	36	29	65	1.20	..	..	6	29	30
1954	54,030	53	37	90	1.66	..	1	8	32	49
1955	54,550	41	47	88	1.61	1	1	12	32	42
1956	54,840	54	43	97	1.76	..	..	8	48	41
1957	54,770	51	41	92	1.67	..	..	12	41	39
1958	55,100	41	47	88	1.59	..	..	3	43	42
1959	55,310	60	47	107	1.93	1	1	4	44	57
1960	55,440	63	44	107	1.93	1	..	8	54	44

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

Site	Male			Female		
	No.	Age Range	Average Age	No.	Age Range	Average Age
1. Intestinal Tract:						
a. Oesophagus	... 1	59	59	1	55	55
b. Stomach	... 11	51-85	65	2	63-73	68
c. Colon	... 4	77-81	79	5	52-83	69
d. Rectum	... 4	55-84	66	7	61-77	68
e. Biliary passages	—	—	—	1	67	67
f. Liver	... —	—	—	1	67	67
g. Peritoneum	... —	—	—	1	69	69
2. Female Generative Organs:						
a. Uterus	... —	—	—	1	58	58
b. Cervix	... —	—	—	2	61-69	65
c. Ovary	... —	—	—	2	41-45	43
d. Vulva	... —	—	—	1	61	61
3. Respiratory Tract:						
a. Lung	... 13	52-78	59	—	—	—
b. Bronchus	... 18	50-82	62	—	—	—
c. Larynx	... 1	76	76	—	—	—
d. Maxillary antrum	—	—	—	1	58	58

Site	No.	Male		No.	Female	
		Age Range	Average Age		Age Range	Average Age
4. Urinary Tract:						
a. Bladder	... 2	58-80	69	1	63	63
b. Testicle	... 1	26	26	—	—	—
c. Kidney	... —	—	—	2	7-32	19
5. Glands.						
a. Thyroid	... —	—	—	1	70	70
b. Breast	... —	—	—	10	35-83	63
c. Pancreas	... 1	59	59	1	77	77
6. Brain	... 3	34-68	51	2	41-52	46
7. Eye	... —	—	—	1	43	43
8. Miscellaneous	... 4	32-69	54	1	58	58
Total	... 63	26-85	62	44	7-83	61

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Tables IVa and IVb summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The following table gives the position at 31st December, 1960:

Class	Estimated Population	No. of Acceptances	%	INJECTIONS				Failure to attend for 1st or 2nd
				Waiting for 1st	Had 1st	Had 2nd	Had 3rd	
Children born 1943 - 1960	14900	11507	77.2	9	34	773	10612	79
Young persons born 1933 - 1942	8400	3672	43.7	3	3	464	3160	42
Persons born before 1933 not passed 40th birthday	10920	1899	17.4	2	9	1385	473	30
Others	—	537	—	—	—	303	234	—
TOTALS	—	17615	—	14	46	2925	14479	151

Scarlet Fever.

30 cases were notified compared with 46 in 1959. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance.

Pneumonia.

35 cases notified, and 22 deaths reported during the year.

Influenza.

No deaths in 1960 compared with 12 in 1959.

Erysipelas.

Four cases were notified during the year as compared with 3 during 1959.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There were 21 cases of Measles and 37 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to these diseases.

Whooping Cough Immunisation at 31st December, 1960.

Year of Birth	Year of Immunisation													Totals
	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	
1960	183													183
1959	366	185												551
1958	43	376	91											510
1957	3	28	351	129										511
1956	10	19	31	334	64									458
1955	4	5	14	40	273	34								370
1954	4	28	10	17	23	201	30							313
1953		7	13	18	7	17	123							185
1952	1	1	7	24	11	7	17	64	6					138
1951	1	1		11	22	9	1	5	39					89
1950	2	3	3	5	3	17	4		4	19				60
1949	1				2	3	4		1	4	11	4		30
1948	1	1				1	3	4			1	40	2	53
1947				2	3	1	1	2	2			8	21	40
1946					1	3	2		1	1		4	1	13
Totals	619	654	520	580	409	293	185	75	53	24	12	56	24	3504

Meningococcal Infection.

Two cases were notified and there were no deaths.

Tuberculosis.

The following tables have been supplied by the Chest Physician, Dr. R. B. Mayfield, who comments:—

LANGLEY CHEST CLINIC, 1960.

Clinic Attendances.

Year	New cases other than Contacts	Total Attendances New and Old
Average 1955 to 1959	309	2857
1960	405	2830

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN OLDBURY.

Year	Notifications	Deaths
Average 1945 to 1949	62	27
Average 1950 to 1954	57	15
Average 1955 to 1959	39	4
1960	18	2

The number of new patients referred to the Chest Clinic in 1960 was well above the average for the previous six years, and this increase indicates that the Clinic still performs a useful function in the Borough, despite the decline of tuberculosis. Consequently it is relevant to mention once again the unsatisfactory arrangements for x-ray examinations of chests. These still take place at the Smethwick Chest Clinic and Dudley Road Hospital, and the co-operation of both these departments has at all times been most helpful and efficient. Nevertheless, a chest x-ray is an essential part of routine medical examination at Clinics such as this, and there is no doubt that a more efficient service could be given to the community if patients could be x-rayed when they attend the Clinic instead of having to attend again for this purpose at a different place and usually on another day. Patients' time is wasted, and reports to their doctors are delayed.

The further decline of notifications is satisfactory, and deaths have been maintained at a low figure. It seems we are on the way to the elimination of tuberculosis, but once again it is right to emphasise that the goal is not yet reached and no relaxation is yet permissible in the organisations for case-finding and other preventive measures.

Once found, it is usually possible by modern treatment to render a patient non-infectious and safe for the future both from his own point of view and that of the community. The main problem, therefore, is to find the infectious cases that still remain among us. Men over the age of 45 years constitute the most fruitful source of such cases, and if every middle-aged and elderly man could be induced to visit the Mass Radiography Unit the problem of eliminating tuberculosis would be much nearer to final solution.

The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1945 to 1960.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	..
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	..	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	..
1950	56	Male	38	1	9	11	6	7	4
		Female	18	4	4	6	4	..	..
1951	70	Male	44	5	8	10	3	12	6
		Female	26	6	11	2	2	2	3
1952	54	Male	28	3	3	5	6	9	2
		Female	26	2	6	6	6	3	3
1953	56	Male	30	4	3	5	4	11	3
		Female	26	4	11	4	6	1	..
1954	61	Male	37	3	12	9	4	3	6
		Female	24	4	12	6	..	2	..
1955	50	Male	31	3	4	6	5	3	10
		Female	19	5	6	6	..	..	2
1956	38	Male	22	1	5	6	6	2	2
		Female	16	3	5	2	4	1	1
1957	35	Male	23	3	6	3	2	2	7
		Female	12	2	6	4	..	..	..
1958	44	Male	28	1	5	3	2	5	12
		Female	16	7	2	4	2	1	..
1959	27	Male	16	1	2	1	1	2	9
		Female	11	..	1	4	3	2	1
1960	18	Male	12	1	2	..	3	..	6
		Female	6	..	2	1	..	..	3

Four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in 1960.

Cases on the register at the end of the year were as follows:—

	Male		Female	
Pulmonary	280	(280)	194	(198)
Non-Pulmonary	26	(28)	16	(18)

Figures for 1959 in brackets.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of the deaths from respiratory tuberculosis since 1940:—

Year	Total	Death Rate	SEX	0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 years & over
1940	39	·77	Male 27 Female 12	.. ..	4 6	8 1	5 3	5 1	6 ..
1941	30	·59	Male 17 Female 13	.. 2	.. 4	6 2	1 3	3 ..	7 2
1942	34	·67	Male 22 Female 12	.. ..	5 6	3 1	4 5	7 ..	3 ..
1943	42	·83	Male 25 Female 17	.. 2	3 7	7 4	6 2	7 1	2 1
1944	26	·52	Male 13 Female 13	.. 1	1 3	4 1	1 4	3 1	4 3
1945	26	·52	Male 16 Female 10	.. ..	.. 3	4 3	2 2	3 2	7 ..
1946	38	·73	Male 23 Female 15	1 2	2 2	7 5	4 1	2 2	7 3
1947	27	·51	Male 20 Female 7	.. ..	4 1	4 3	5 3	2 ..	5 ..
1948	15	·28	Male 8 Female 7	.. ..	3 2	.. 2	1 3	4..	....
1949	28	·52	Male 16 Female 12	1 ..	2 5	1 1	6 2	3 1	3 3
1950	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	1 ..	.. ..	.. 3	2 1	1 1	4 ..
1951	15	·27	Male 12 Female 3	.. ..	.. ..	3 2	.. ..	3 ..	6 1
1952	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	3 2	2 ..	2 3
1953	11	·20	Male 6 Female 5	.. ..	.. 2	2 ..	.. 1	2 1	2 1
1954	12	·22	Male 10 Female 2	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 2	.. ..	8 ..
1955	6	·11	Male 5 Female 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	2 1	2 ..
1956	3	·05	Male 3 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 ..
1957	7	·12	Male 7 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 ..	3 ..
1958	4	·07	Male 2 Female 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. 1	1 1
1959	Nil	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1960	2	·036	Male 1 Female 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..

			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)												WARD DISTRIBUTION							
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
RESPIRATORY	MALE	No. on Register at 1-1-60 ...	280	—	8	10	11	26	31	59	55	45	25	10	35	31	43	20	50	54	47	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	12				1	1	1		3		4	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	1										1							1	
			Restored to Register...	1							1										1	
			Inward Transfers ...	5				1		1	2		1							1	4	
		Deletions	Died ...	9								1	1	4	3	2			1	2	2	2
			Recovered ...	3				2				1					1	2				
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	1										1								
	Outward Transfers ...		6					1	2	1	1	1			1				3	1	1	
	No. on Register at 31-12-60 ...		280	—	8	10	11	26	31	61	55	44	25	9	34	31	42	21	48	59	45	
	FEMALE	No. on Register at 1-1-60 ...	198	—	17	8	16	22	28	56	32	12	6	1	24	19	44	18	30	35	28	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	6						2	1			1	2			1	1	2		2
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
Inward Transfers ...			3						1	1	1				1	1	1					
Deletions		Died ...	1						1							1						
		Recovered ...	4		1					2	1								2			
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																			
	Outward Transfers ...	8				1	3	3	1							4		1	2	1		
No. on Register at 31-12-60 ...		194	—	16	8	15	19	27	55	32	12	7	3	25	19	40	19	29	33	29		
NON RESPIRATORY	MALE	No. on Register at 1-1-60 ...	28	—	5	3	2	—	7	3	6	2	—	—	1	1	8	6	6	3	3	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	3					1				2						1	2		
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
			Inward Transfers ...	—																		
		Deletions	Died ...	—																		
			Recovered ...	3		1	1					1					1		1			1
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
	Outward Transfers ...		2									1	1		1		1					
	No. on Register at 31-12-60 ...		26	—	4	2	2	1	7	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	7	6	8	3	2	
	FEMALE	No. on Register at 1-1-60 ...	18	—	4	—	2	1	4	4	1	2	—	—	2	1	4	1	4	3	3	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	1										1		1						
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
Inward Transfers ...			1							1											1	
Deletions		Died ...	—																			
		Recovered ...	3		1				1	1						1			1	1		
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																1			
	Outward Transfers ...	1					1															
No. on Register at 31-12-60 ...		16	—	3	—	2	—	3	4	1	2	1	—	3	—	4	1	2	2	4		

AGE AND WARD DISTRIBUTION ARE THOSE OBTAINING AT DATE OF PRIMARY NOTIFICATION

DEATHS—All the Deaths removed from Register may not have actually occurred during 1960

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50.

On no occasion did the Council have to bear the cost of burial during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

It was not necessary during the year to resort to Section 47 in order to remove, to suitable premises, a person in need of care and attention.

Mortuary.

During the year 37 bodies were removed to the Mortuary and in 34 instances a post-mortem was conducted.

Medical Examinations.

The staff of the department carried out 99 medical examinations for superannuation and employment purposes.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculous cases continues to merit top priority, but families living in overcrowded or insanitary accommodation are also given due consideration.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 234 (156 sub-tenants, 78 tenants) new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups:—

174	with no children.
35	with one child.
16	with 2 children.
3	with 3 children.
5	with 4 children.
1	with 5 children.

Total applications on Housing Register at 31.12.60:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	2,757.
Tenants	...	...	...	937

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of houses completed by the Corporation	...	80
Number of houses completed by Smethwick Corporation...	...	14
Number of houses completed by private contractors	...	90
Number of Municipal houses and flats in course of erection at 31.12.60	...	315
Number of permanent dwellings erected since 8.5.1945	...	2,839

Water Supply.

19 houses in the area are supplied with water from mains by means of standpipes. The approximate population so served is 66. The remaining houses and population in the area receive water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

				Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
				-----	-----	-----
Physical Characters	...	...	...	Colourless	Colourless	Colourless
Odour	...	...	...	None	None	None
Appearance	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
pH.	...	...	...	7.8	8.3	8.9

Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Solids in solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	275	210	300
Solids in solution (After ignition)	...	...	...	235	190	280
Chlorine present as chloride	...	...	...	24	21	28
Hardness—non-carbonate	...	...	...	110	45	Nil
Hardness—carbonate	...	...	...	95	110	2
Hardness, total	...	...	...	205	155	2
Hardness—excess Alkalinity as Na ₂ CO ₃	...	...	...	—	—	140
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.01	0.03	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.09	Trace	0.04
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	2.2	5.3	6.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	1.60	0.25	0.65
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fluorine	...	...	...	—	—	—

Note.—To convert the above parts per million to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.07.

Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli:—

In two days at 37°C.	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Bact. Coli Type 1	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Chief Statistics, 1960.

Registrar General's figures.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	821
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	14.22
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	4.38
Still-births	...	...	...	...	21
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	24.94
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	842
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	18
Infant Mortality Rates—					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	21.92
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	21.65
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	27.77
Neo-natal (under 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	18.27
Early neo-natal (under 1 week) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	15.83
Perinatal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	40.38
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	Nil

Births.

The total of 821 live births is divisible into 439 boys and 382 girls, giving a standardised live birth-rate of 14.22 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 821 live births, 36 were illegitimate (18 boys and 18 girls). No illegitimate still-births were notified.

Still-births.

There were 21 still-births registered during 1960 giving a still-birth rate of 24.94 per thousand live and still-births, or 0.38 still-births per thousand of the population, as compared with 1959, when the number of still-births was 24; the still-birth rate 29.81 per thousand live and still-births, or 0.43 still-births per thousand population.

Premature Births.

WEIGHT AT BIRTH	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home & transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and trans- ferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Sur- vived 28 days
(A) 3 lb. 4 oz. or less . .	6	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(B) Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. . .	13	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(C) Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. . .	5	—	5	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(D) Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. . .	20	1	19	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS . .	44	2	38	12	—	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1

Infant Mortality.

There were 18 deaths of infants under one year of age and 15 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 21.92 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous ten years are:—

1949	...	30	deaths	or	34.12	per	1,000	live	births.
1950	...	25	..	or	30.30	..	..
1951	...	19	..	or	24.51	..	..
1952	...	18	..	or	24.09	..	..
1953	...	25	..	or	31.05	..	..
1954	...	22	..	or	29.53	..	..
1955	...	16	..	or	21.88	..	..
1956	...	15	..	or	18.67	..	..
1957	...	19	..	or	24.35	..	..
1958	...	22	..	or	29.37	..	..
1959	...	17	..	or	21.76	..	..

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

Infant Mortality during the Year 1960

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	DAYS					Total under 1 Week	Week 1-2	Total under 4 Weeks	MONTHS			Total under 1 Year
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	5-6				1-2	3-4	10-11	
Pneumonia						—		—	1			1
Pneumonia of New Born			1			1		1				1
Toxæmia			1			1		1				1
Asphyxia		1				1		1				1
Septicæmia	1	1				2		2				2
Spina Bifida				1		1	1	2				2
Hydrocephalus		1				1		1			1	2
Conduct Heart			1		1	2	1	3		1		4
Dissection of Great Vessels		1				1		1				1
Haemorrhagic Disease of New Born				1		1		1				1
Stillbirth		1			1	2		2				2
TOTALS	1	5	3	2	2	13	2	15	1	1	1	18

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

The following table gives the Oldbury and the England and Wales Rates for the past ten years:—

Year	Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)		Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births)		Perinatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)	
	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales
1960	24.94		15.83		40.38	
1959	29.81	21.0	12.80	15.8	42.23	34.2
1958	17.06	21.6	18.69	16.2	32.80	35.1
1957	28.64	22.5	16.66	16.5	43.58	36.2
1956	21.92	22.9	13.69	16.8	34.10	36.8
1955	22.72	23.2	16.41	17.3	36.09	37.6
1954	15.85	23.5	24.16	17.7	35.66	38.1
1953	27.77	22.5	16.14	17.7	39.85	37.0
1952	19.68	22.7	14.72	18.3	27.55	37.5
1951	17.74	23.0	16.77	18.8	32.95	38.1
1950	20.19	22.7	24.24	18.5	42.75	37.7

Illegitimate Live Births.

The Illegitimate Live Birth Rate shows an increase on the figure for the previous year.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Live Births
1960	36	.64	4.38
1959	24	.43	3.07
1958	32	.58	4.27
1957	28	.51	3.58
1956	16	.29	1.99
1955	23	.42	3.14
1954	25	.46	3.35
1953	32	.59	3.97
1952	27	.50	3.61
1951	28	.52	3.54
1950	38	.70	4.51
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths during 1960.

Midwives Act, 1936.

An indication of the work undertaken by the Domiciliary Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

YEAR	CONFINEMENTS				Total	Hospital Discharges before 14th day		Domiciliary cases wholly Breast Fed at 14th day	NATAL VISITS	
	DOCTOR BOOKED									
	No		Yes							
	Present at Deljvery		Present at Delivery							
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Cases	Visits		Ante	Post
1953	—	41	42	242	325	254	687	214	2328	22
1954	—	17	40	218	275	338	926	218	2124	26
1955	—	16	21	261	298	314	989	218	1482	2
1956	—	7	20	259	286	459	1313	212	1622	—
1957	1	6	20	249	273	552	1625	207	1990	—
1958	—	3	25	221	249	417	1955	177	1971	—
1959	—	2	21	220	243	419	2167	157	2045	—
1960	—	10	27	277	314	426	2263	214	2274	—

Gas and Air Analgesia.

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May, 1948. Out of 314 domiciliary cases, 246 or 78.3 per cent. availed themselves of the opportunity during the year, as compared with 76.1 per cent. in 1959.

Notifications received from Midwives.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	135
Artificial feeding	...	...	59
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	2
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	1
Laying out of dead	...	...	—
Abortions and still-births	...	...	2

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified to the Department.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were two cases during the year.

MEDICAL AID.

Medical aid was summoned by Midwives on 135 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out in the next page. In all instances a Medical Practitioner

had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.

Mother—

Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	47
Episiotomy	...	...	...	2
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	7
Post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2
Pyrexia	...	...	...	10
Retained placenta	...	...	...	12
Placenta prævia	...	...	...	2
Mal-presentation	...	...	...	6
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	8
Premature labour	...	...	...	4
Threatened breast abscess	...	...	...	5
Fœtal distress	...	...	...	3
Fœtal heart irregular	...	...	...	2
Stained meconium	...	...	...	2
Rising pulse rate	...	...	...	1
Miscarriage	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1
Total				116

Baby—

Discharging eye	...	...	...	6
Cyanosis	...	...	...	4
Septic spots	...	...	...	2
Rash	...	...	...	1
Jaundice	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	1
Poor condition	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	1
Collapse	...	...	...	1
Total				19

Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 551.

	Living	Still-born
Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich	326	12
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	20	1
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	26	1
Birmingham General Hospital	2	—
St. Chad's Hospital	136	4
Sorrento Maternity Hospital	1	—
Women's Hospital	1	—
Dudley Road Hospital	7	—
Solihull Hospital	1	—
Bromsgrove General Hospital	1	—
Marston Green Hospital	1	—
Mayday Hospital, Croydon	1	—
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home	1	—
Lordswood Maternity Home	5	—
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home	1	—
Other private addresses	3	—
Totals	533	18

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
Number of Sessions	24	25	26	27	26	26	76	78
New Ante-Natal Cases	19	18	33	38	12	20	64	76
Total attendances	108	95	215	220	61	101	384	416
Average per Session	4.5	3.8	8.3	8.1	2.3	3.9	5.0	5.3
Blood Test only ..	43	37	67	79	98	89	208	205
Hospital booking only	115	84	118	136	44	62	277	282

The number of 64 new cases is 7.6 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor, Wasserman Reaction and Hæmoglobin estimation are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure. This service is available to the patients of General Practitioners on request.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The three clinics at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

573 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Clinics for the first time. This represented 69.8 per cent. of the registered live births. 23 children between 1 and 2 years and 28 children between the age of 2 and 5 years attended the Clinics for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Clinics.

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
New Cases:—								
0-1 year	88	93	286	249	199	225	573	567
1-2 years	1	3	5	18	17	17	23	38
2-5 years	1	4	4	16	23	30	28	50
Total ..	90	100	295	283	239	272	624	655
Seen by Doctor:—								
0-1 year	451	405	1,410	1,085	1,030	913	2,891	2,403
1-2 years	19	46	121	89	103	72	243	207
2-5 years	20	25	62	66	68	53	150	144
Total ..	490	476	1,593	1,240	1,201	1,038	3,284	2,754
Attendances:—								
0-1 year	1,668	1,649	4,700	4,146	3,187	3,479	9,555	9,274
1-2 years	516	582	889	1,022	865	710	2,270	2,314
2-5 years	452	298	582	647	799	738	1,833	1,683
Total ..	2,636	2,529	6,171	5,815	4,851	4,927	13,658	13,271
Number of Sessions ..	48	48	105	103	100	100	253	251
Average Attendance ..	55	52	59	56	48	49	54	53
Children attending in 1960 (1959)								
Who were born in:—1960 (1959)	88	(84)	252	(226)	167	(198)	507	(508)
Who were born in:—1959 (1958)	76	(86)	216	(201)	187	(162)	479	(449)
Who were born in:—1958-55 (1957-54)	89	(76)	181	(228)	186	(214)	456	(518)
Total Children attending in 1960 (1959)	253	(246)	649	(655)	540	(574)	1,442	(1,475)

Post-Natal Clinics

Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 11,130 visits were made to homes in the district and 699 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised as follows:—

	First visits	Total visits
Expectant Mothers	156	208
Children under 1 year of age	787	3,162
Children age 1 and under 2 years	—	1,711
Children age 2 and under 5 years	—	4,201
Other cases	—	409
Ineffective visits	—	1,439
Total		11,130

Number of children under 5 years visited during 1960 ... 3,135

Number of families or households visited during 1960 ... 2,676

Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

Sale of Dried Milk and Other Foods.

During the year dried milk and other foods to the value of £1,901 15s. 10d. were sold at the Welfare Clinics.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of welfare foods continued during the year from the Infant Welfare Clinics and also from the Central Depot established at the Offices, Greenwood Avenue, Langley, Oldbury.

During the year the following items were distributed:—

National Dried Milk—Full Cream	...	5,763 tins.
Half Cream	...	164 tins.
Cod Liver Oil	... ..	1,878 bottles.
Vitamin A and D Tablets	... ..	1,427 packets.
Orange Juice	... ..	17,073 bottles.

Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the finding of medical inspections during 1960:—

Physical condition—Satisfactory	...	405 (100.0%)
Unsatisfactory	...	— (—)
Total	...	<hr/> 405 <hr/>

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	... ..	Lung Defect	... ..
Eye Defects	... .. 5	Developmental	... ..
Ear Defects	... ..	Orthopædic	... .. 6
Nose and Throat	... .. 4	Nervous System	... ..
Defective Speech	... ..	Psychological	... ..
Lymphatic Glands	... ..	Abdomen	... ..
Heart and Circulation	... ..	Other Defects	... ..

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Clinics noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Mr. Guy F. G. Siggins, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1960, 27 new cases attended and the following conditions were found to have been present:—

Strabismus	... ..	17
Simple Hypermetropia	... ..	1
Dislocation of Lens	... ..	1
Congenital Cataract	... ..	1
No defect found	... ..	7

Dental Treatment—**Pre-School Children and Expectant and Nursing Mothers.**

			Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children under five years
New Patients: Examined	...	...	33	63
Requiring treatment	...	...	33	54
Patients Treated: First visits	...	...	33	51
Subsequent visits	...	...	159	6
Made dentally fit	...	...	52	52
Scale and gum treatment	...	...	26	—
Fillings	...	...	89	14
Silver nitrate treatment	...	...	—	3
Crowns or inlays	...	...	1	—
Extractions	...	...	185	77
General anæsthetics	...	...	5	41
Dentures provided: Full	...	...	21	—
Partial	...	...	8	—
Radiographs	...	...	13	—

Family Planning.

The Oldbury and District Family Planning Association continued their sessions at the Warley Clinic, Bleakhouse Road, Warley, each Wednesday from 6-30—7-30 p.m. There were 920 attendances at 48 sessions.

110 new patients attended during the year, the source of reference is set out in the following table:—

Source				
Health Visitors and Midwives	...	...	...	8
Local Doctors	...	...	...	33
Other Patients already attending	...	...	...	49
Newspaper advertisements	...	...	...	4
Transferred from other clinics	...	...	...	10
F.P.A.	...	...	...	1
Referred by Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	1
Social Worker	...	...	...	1
Clergyman	...	...	...	1
Midwife	...	...	...	1
Lecturing	...	...	...	1

Home Nursing.

At the end of the year the equivalent whole-time nursing staff was 6½. The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:—

	<i>Cases Attended</i>	<i>Visits Paid</i>
MEDICAL	515	19,503
SURGICAL	65	3,021
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS	8	448
MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS ..	11	110
TOTAL	599	23,082
AGE OF PATIENT AT FIRST VISIT = OVER 65	334	16,287
UNDER 5	39	199
PATIENTS WHO HAD MORE THAN 24 VISITS IN YEAR	173	17,434

Home Helps.

This service is organised by the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Service and during the year domestic help was provided in 19 maternity cases, 115 chronic sick cases and 14 other cases. There were 27 part-time (equivalent to 15 whole-time) and 1 whole-time Home Helps employed at the end of the year.

Vaccination.

The following table gives details of the number of primary vaccinations carried out during the past ten years:—

Year	Under 1 year	AGE 1-4 years	GROUP 5-14 years	15 years & over	Clinic	General Practitioner	Total
1951	245	26	4	8	127	156	283
1952	219	11	4	8	121	121	242
1953	245	16	14	9	138	146	284
1954	239	12	7	9	115	152	267
1955	217	17	10	6	126	124	250
1956	208	13	1	6	107	121	228
1957	289	25	15	13	128	214	342
1958	318	27	9	14	149	219	368
1959	353	32	12	25	220	202	422
1960	479	46	15	17	302	255	557

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In all 753 children were immunised in 1960, 672 under 5 years of age and 81 between 5 and 15 years of age and in addition 502 reinforcing injections were given, mainly to children aged 5 years.

Details of the state of Immunisation at the 31st December, 1960, are shown in Tables IVa and IVb.

Chiropody Service.

From the 1st April to the 31st December, 46 sessions were held at which 110 people (33 males and 87 females), all Old Age Pensioners, made 241 attendances; 8 of the 110 persons had completed the course of six treatments and had been recommended for a further course.

Borough Ambulance Service.

During the year 9,063 ordinary cases, 603 accident cases, 5,698 children to the occupational centre, and 328 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 65,388.

The vehicles include 1 Morris (16 h.p.) Sitting Case Ambulance, 1 Morris Ambulance (27 h.p.) and 3 Morris (16 h.p.) Ambulances.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

325 Road Accidents.

113 Works „

126 Home „

39 School „

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 14,816 and 876 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

TABLE I.—*Corrected Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1960.*

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District													Total Cases Notified in each Ward						Total	Total cases removed to Hospital	
	At Ages—Years													Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley			Bristnall
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards									
Measles ..	—	1	8	2	1	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	14	—	1	3	1	21	—
Whooping Cough ..	5	2	1	5	9	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	10	4	10	2	3	37	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2	2	2	6	—	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	20	1	3	2	3	30	—
Pneumonia ..	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	19	—	2	7	11	1	6	2	6	35	4
Dysentery ..	2	—	—	—	—	14	6	1	—	6	1	2	1	3	2	6	4	10	5	1	31	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	1	—	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	1
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	4	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
TOTALS ..	15	7	12	13	12	49	14	4	2	7	9	23	4	9	20	69	11	31	17	14	171	8

TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1960

Cause of Death	Detailed List No.—	All ages			AGE GROUPS															WARDS						
		TOTAL	M	F	0—4 months	4—12 months	1—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75—85 years	85 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	001—008	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
2. „ other	010—019	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Syphilitic disease	020—029	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
4. Diphtheria	055	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping cough	056	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Meningococcal infections	057	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Acute poliomyelitis	080	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles	085	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases ..	Rest of 001—138	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	151	13	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	3	2	1	2	1	4	...	2	2	2	2
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	162, 163	31	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	14	6	2	...	3	1	8	3	6	7	3	3
12. „ „ breast	170	10	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	3	...	1	1	6	...	1	...	1	1
13. „ „ uterus	171—174	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Rest of 140-203, 205	50	21	29	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	3	5	14	11	12	...	3	6	9	5	8	9	10
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia.. ..	204	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Diabetes	260	7	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	...	...
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	330—334	86	43	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	17	25	31	9	17	10	19	6	10	10	14	14
18. Coronary disease, angina	420	83	50	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	36	21	6	12	12	15	4	13	10	17	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	440—443	10	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	3	...	1	1	1	...	2	2	3	3
20. Other heart disease	Rest of 410—443	68	25	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	5	13	35	11	8	6	12	10	11	8	13	13
21. „ circulatory disease	444—468	18	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	5	8	1	3	2	3	4	3	3	...	...
22. Influenza	480—483	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Pneumonia	490—493	22	11	11	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	3	4	10	1	2	...	3	3	1	6	7
24. Bronchitis	500—502	35	29	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	11	10	8	4	3	3	7	2	7	6	7	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system..	470—475, 510—527	4	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	540—541	7	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	543, 571, 572, 764	3	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	590—594	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	610	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	640—689	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Congenital malformations	750—759	10	7	3	8	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	...	3	...	...
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	Rest of 001—795	36	17	19	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	5	5	8	7	6	4	3	2	7	3	11	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	E810—835	6	2	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	1	1
34. All other accidents	E800—802, E840—963	10	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	1	2	...	1	2	2	3	1	1	1
35. Suicide	E963, 970—979	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	E964, 965, 980—999	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	TOTALS ..	523	285	238	17	1	2	1	1	5	...	11	9	40	99	142	152	43	66	53	103	45	81	76	99	

TABLE III.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality—1960

Area	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (Ex. Still-) births)	Deaths of Infants under One Year	DEATHS FROM							
					Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis (All Forms)	Influenza	Acute Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Coronary and Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease
ENGLAND AND WALES	17.1	19.7	11.5	21.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
OLDBURY	14.22	24.94	13.39	21.92	0.55	—	—	0.036	—	—	0.39	1.49

LIVE BIRTH and DEATH RATES per 1,000 population
 STILL BIRTH RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births
 INFANT MORTALITY RATES per 1,000 related live births

MATERNAL MORTALITY

RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	
ENGLAND and WALES	Oldbury NIL
MATERNAL MORTALITY	—

TABLE IVa.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION
at 31st DECEMBER, 1960

AGE on 31 - 12 - 60 (Born in year).	Under 1 (1960)	1 - 4 (1956 - 9)	5 - 9 (1951 - 55)	10 - 14 (1946 - 50)	Total under 15 years.
A. No. of children who have completed course (Primary or boosting) in period 1956 - 60	178	2122	2971	1874	7145
B. No. of children who have completed course (Primary or booster) in period 1955 or earlier.	—	—	722	2570	3292
C. Estimated Mid-year child population.	827	3013	8418		12258
Immunity Index:—					
1960	21.52	70.42	57.55		58.28
1959	15.13	65.67	64.33		61.61
1958	8.60	62.50	71.61		65.79
1957	11.22	61.75	73.16		66.80
1956	3.60	62.88	67.27		62.51
1955	5.02	67.60	68.19		64.26
1954	4.03	68.63	59.21		58.34

TABLE IVb—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1960

COLUMN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION (PRIMARY OR BOOST)															Total Immu- nised at age in end Col.	Age at Date of Immu- nation (Years)
	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946		
1960	178 521	158 298	148 300	131 296	79 79	20 74	14 89	12 60	18 98	18 65	3 49	14 42	12 40	7 19	2	2,644	0-1
1959	57 36	58 25	51 34	69 24	24 27	36 15	141 9	12 13	37 2	60 26	22 8	28 15	55 12	59		955	1-2
1958	9 4	2 17	8 13	12 6	1 4	9 6	2 5	10 9	7 3	8 1	3 1	4 8	5			157	2-3
1957	— 9	8 8	8 10	9 7	6 8	8 2	4 12	4 29	4 4	2 3	— 7	2				154	3-4
1956	4 162	11 158	13 137	14 147	11 165	10 108	19 55	16 15	3 11	4 13	1					1,077	4-5
1955	311 54	294 71	369 64	353 2	277 98	344 128	346 68	33 62	21 84	36						3,015	5-6
1954	4 7	10 9	33 5	15 15	25 9	11 11	11 9	41 9	27							251	6-7
1953	2 2	4 4	4 8	7 3	7 4	2 6	1 9	8								71	7-8
1952	2 8	3 5	5 9	6 15	7 24	11 2	8									105	8-9
1951	— 4	1 1	56 181	415 253	424 247	381										1,963	9-10
1950	4 1	— 2	4 2	12 4	3											32	10-11
1949	1 —	— —	— 3	5												9	11-12
1948	1 —	— —	2													3	12-13
1947	1 —	— —														1	13-14
1946	—															—	14-15
TOTALS	1,182	1,147	1,467	1,820	1,529	1,184	802	333	319	236	94	113	124	85	2	10,437	
PRIMARY	753	720	692	749	510	723	817	824	717	706	568*	1,021	754	913	779	Immunisations in the Borough	
BOOSTER	502	829	514	1,298	1,225	1,225	1,387	1,726	667	555	403*	373	217				

*Immunisation suspended from July to November.

TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891

YEARS	POPULATION (R. G.'s Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION						Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS		
		LIVE BIRTH *		DEATH *		PHTHISIS DEATHS				Maternal Mortal- ity	STILL BIRTH	
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Oldbury	E. & W.	No.	Rate	Oldbury	E. & W.		Old- bury	Old- bury	E. & W.
—1895	21,331	40·82	30·5	21·33	18·7	89	·8344	201·8	151			
—1900	25,375	37·82	29·3	16·80	17·7	94	·7411	216·5	156			
—1905	25,798	36·28	28·2	17·45	16·0	77	·5969	175·0	138			
—1910	28,580	35·75	26·3	17·04	14·7	118	·8257	147·1	117			
—1915	33,856	30·12	23·6	15·47	14·3	115	·6793	137·6	110			
—1920	38,277	23·47	20·1	12·77	14·4	162	·8464	104·1	90			
1921	37,700	26·4	22·4	11·5	12·1	31	·8222	101·0	83	7·04		
2	38,390	24·8	20·6	11·6	12·9	31	·8074	69·0	77	3·15		
3	39,970	23·5	19·7	11·1	11·6	21	·5388	78·0	69	3·27		
4	40,050	21·9	18·8	9·5	12·2	30	·7490	68·0	75	4·56		
5	40,740	22·1	18·3	10·8	12·2	34	·8344	70·0	75	4·43		
6	42,080	20·4	17·8	9·7	11·6	27	·6415	55·8	70	1·16		
7	43,120	19·4	16·7	11·2	12·3	22	·5102	88·4	69	2·38		
8	33,760	21·7	16·7	11·1	11·7	29	·8589	67·8	65	3·64		
9	34,190	21·7	16·3	12·6	13·4	19	·5557	99·7	74	4·04		
1930	35,000	21·5	16·3	10·8	11·4	36	1·0285	43·9	60	7·80		
1	36,370	20·8	15·8	11·1	12·3	21	·5773	68·6	66	3·86		
2	37,660	19·4	15·3	10·1	12·0	21	·5576	91·5	65	7·87		
3	39,560	17·4	14·4	10·5	12·3	23	·5813	89·7	64	2·83		
4	40,720	19·2	14·8	10·4	11·8	29	·7121	64·0	59	2·43		
5	41,900	18·9	14·7	9·7	11·7	31	·7398	65·6	57	2·40		
6	42,990	19·6	14·8	10·28	12·1	35	·8141	55·6	59	—		
7	44,450	18·94	14·9	11·09	12·4	25	·5624	65·32	58	2·24		
8	45,450	19·88	15·1	10·42	11·6	30	·6600	56·41	53	3·19		
9	47,000	18·51	15·0	9·96	12·1	28	·5956	64·59	50	3·31		
1940	48,700	18·74	14·6	11·17	14·3	39	·8008	49·34	55	4·20	38·94	36·1
1	49,390	16·94	14·2	9·98	12·9	30	·6074	70·47	59	1·15	33·48	34·4
2	49,530	19·97	15·8	9·63	11·6	34	·6864	46·51	49	2·92	37·00	33·0
3	50,100	21·89	16·5	9·84	12·1	42	·8382	41·02	49	1·84	35·18	30·2
4	50,220	21·42	17·6	8·86	11·6	26	·5176	37·18	46	2·70	29·75	27·7
5	50,040	20·22	16·1	9·03	11·4	26	·5194	33·59	46	1·93	23·16	27·6
6	51,890	19·32	19·1	9·55	11·5	38	·7322	35·89	43	—	26·21	27·2
7	52,510	19·97	20·5	9·54	12·0	27	·5141	36·22	41	2·78	26·90	24·1
8	53,350	17·22	17·9	8·90	10·8	15	·2811	41·34	34	2·14	13·94	23·2
9	53,380	16·46	16·7	13·12	11·7	28	·5245	34·12	32	2·23	18·97	22·7
1950	53,820	14·86	15·8	12·65	11·6	13	·2415	30·30	29·6	1·18	20·19	22·7
1	53,740	13·84	15·5	12·36	12·5	15	·2791	24·51	29·7	1·26	17·74	23·0
2	53,790	13·32	15·3	11·96	11·3	13	·2416	24·09	27·6	—	19·68	22·7
3	53,820	14·35	15·5	10·45	11·4	11	·2043	31·05	26·8	1·20	27·77	22·5
4	54,030	13·23	15·2	11·75	11·3	12	·2220	29·53	25·4	1·32	15·85	23·5
5	54,550	12·86	15·0	12·43	11·7	6	·1099	21·88	24·9	1·33	22·72	23·2
6	54,840	14·05	15·6	12·53	11·7	3	·0547	18·67	23·7	—	21·92	22·9
7	54,770	13·67	16·1	12·75	11·5	7	·1278	24·35	23·1	1·24	28·64	22·5
8	55,100	13·04	16·4	13·24	11·7	4	·0725	29·37	22·6	—	17·06	21·6
9	55,310	13·55	16·5	13·91	11·6	—	—	21·76	22·2	—	29·81	21·0
1960	55,440	14·22	17·1	13·39	11·5	2	·0360	21·92	21·7	—	24·94	19·7

* These rates are standardised as follows:—

Live Births from	...	...	...	...	1950
Deaths from	...	...	...	...	1949

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1960.

W. J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my seventh annual Report of the work carried out by the Staff of my Department during the year 1960.

INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections and re-visits to premises (9,338) showed an increase of almost one-third above the corresponding figure for 1959 and reflected, in the main, survey work on smoke control areas made possible by an increase in the establishment of the Department. The number of notices served (410) also showed an increase on the figure for 1959.

Summary of Inspections and Re-visits.

Housing Act:				Inspection	Re-visits
Closing and Demolition	...	...	...	219	133
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	88	539
Overcrowding	...	...	...	64	35
Public Health Act:					
Repairs	...	...	...	440	1,071
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	22	58
Water Closets and Drains	...	...	...	365	249
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	6	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	4	1
Water Courses and Canals	...	...	...	21	11
Dirty/Verminous Premises	...	...	...	113	62
Cinemas	...	...	...	1	—
Keeping of Animals/Poultry	...	...	...	13	13

					Inspection tions	Re- visits
Food and Drugs Act, etc.:						
Meat and Other Foods Inspection	...	...	...	...	268	17
Slaughterhouses (excluding above)	...	...	...	...	3	3
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	—	8
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	11	15
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	9	2
Retail Food Shops	...	...	...	...	70	54
Markets	...	...	...	...	1	1
Food and Drugs Sampling	...	...	...	...	78	1
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	31	11
Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	16	—
Food Vehicles and Machines	...	...	...	...	6	4
Food Adulteration	...	...	...	...	10	1
Factories Act:						
Factories	...	...	...	...	8	4
Clean Air Act, etc.:						
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	39	—
Air Pollution (excluding above)	...	...	...	...	262	92
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	1,014	104
Other Acts. Byelaws, etc.:						
Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	10	54
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	17	31
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	203	449
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	3	1
Noise	...	...	...	...	4	1
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	19	5
Refuse Removal and Disposal (including Dustbins)	...	...	...	...	1,521	58
Salvage	...	...	...	...	34	—
Depot Maintenance	...	...	...	...	12	15
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	821	17
Number of Interviews	...	...	...	...	391	—
					<u>6,217</u>	<u>3,121</u>

Summary of Notices served during the year 1960.

Public Health Act, 1936:			Preliminary	Statutory
Nuisance Properties ... ..	...	...	202	29
Defective Water Closets (Section 45) ...	...	...	15	8
Proposed work of Maintenance on Sewers (Section 24) ... ..	...	...	12	14
Defective Drains (Section 39) ... ..	...	...	61	44
O.U.D.C. Act, 1929:				
Defective Drains ... ..	...	...	—	12
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ...	...	...	—	1
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 ... ..	...	...	9	—
Factories Act, 1937 (Section 7) ... ..	...	...	3	—
			<hr/> 302	<hr/> 108

HOUSING.

Figures supplied by the Housing Manager for 1960 show that at the end of the year there were 2,757 sub-tenants on the register of applications for municipal dwellings, an increase of 13 on the corresponding figure for 1959, which in turn showed an increase on the 1958 figure.

As only 80 new dwellings were built by the Council during 1960 (compared with 101 in 1959) the total number of lettings also dropped—the inevitable result of which was a restriction of slum clearance activities referred to elsewhere in this Report. The actual number of lettings allocated to the Health Department and my Department was 60 per cent. of the total—a figure which may be considered satisfactory in all the circumstances.

LETTINGS.

Date order applicants ... ..	...	...	...	41
Special cases (Housing Department) ...	...	...	...	17
Health cases (e.g. to abate overcrowding) ...	...	...	...	17
Cases referred from T.B. After-Care Committee ...	...	...	...	5
Slum clearance ... ..	...	...	...	67
				<hr/> 147

REPAIRS TO HOUSES.

The work of securing essential repairs to rented houses in the district was maintained at much the same level as in 1959. Again it is regrettable to record that no fewer than 37 houses had to have defects remedied in them in default by this Authority, a figure

more than double that for the preceding year. Property owners unwilling to repair their houses must be left in no doubt that this Council will continue to use their statutory powers. It is, however, worth noting that when the Council carry out such work in default the work is done at a reasonable cost (even with the modest establishment charge) and its execution is properly supervised. To what extent some property owners are aware of this is a matter for speculation.

Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority ...	193	—
After formal action under:		
(a) Public Health Act, 1936 ...	68	37
(b) Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—

Summary of Defects Remedied, Improvements Effected and Nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health and O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1960.

Dwelling Houses:

Roof repairs ...	68
Chimney stacks repointed/repared ...	10
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt ...	2
Chimney pots provided ...	3
Crest tiles repointed/rebedded ...	1
Defective spouting repaired or refixed ...	33
New spoutings provided ...	12
House brickwork repointed/repared ...	18
Dangerous brickwork of walls rebuilt ...	4
Walls damp-proofed ...	25
Plasterwork repaired or renewed ...	50
Firegrates repaired or new provided ...	2
Windows made to open ...	3
Sash cords provided to windows ...	16
Woodwork of windows repaired/renewed ...	18
Sills repaired or new provided ...	6
Floors repaired or new provided ...	16
Staircases repaired ...	4
Woodwork of doors repaired or new doors provided...	15
Verandahs repaired ...	7
Miscellaneous ...	12

Wash-houses, Water Closets, etc.:

Wash-house chimneys rebuilt ...	2
Wash-houses reconstructed ...	2
Wash-house roofs repaired ...	13
Wash-house windows and doors repaired or renewed...	2

Wash boiler furnaces repaired or new provided	...	...	2
Spoutings repaired or new provided	...	...	13
Water closet brickwork repointed/repared	...	...	7
Water closet roofs repaired	...	...	6
Water closets reconstructed	...	...	2
New pedestals provided	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns repaired or new provided	...	...	16
Leaking water closet joints repaired	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	9

Drainage and Water Supply:

Obstructed drains cleared	...	...	365
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	1
Inspection chambers repaired and/or new covers provided	...	...	3
New sinks provided	...	...	3
Waste pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	7
Burst water pipes repaired	...	...	7
Courts, back yards and approaches paved/repared	...	...	4

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

The nine applications received for Certificates of Disrepair during 1960 were exactly one half of the very low figure for 1959 and it is now obvious that the storm of activity unleashed by the Rent Act, 1957, has largely spent itself. The Act, around which so much controversy raged, has resulted in the repair and redecoration of a reasonable number of rented houses but whether the results are as satisfactory as the Government envisaged is perhaps another matter.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of applications for Certificates	...	...	9
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	...	...	Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates:			
(a) for some defects specified by applicant	...	...	10
(b) for all defects specified by applicant	...	...	1
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority	...	...	Nil
Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	...	5
Number of Certificates issued	...	...	2
Number of applications by landlords for cancellation of Certificates	...	...	9
Number of objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	...	...	6
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel despite tenants' objections	...	...	1
Number of Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	..	...	6

SLUM CLEARANCE.

104 individual unfit houses were represented as unfit, for ultimate demolition, and 4 houses for closing during the year. 107 slum houses in all were demolished and 7 closed for human habitation.

Once again, owing to a shortage of new Council houses, an enforced temporary halt in slum clearance was necessary and at the end of the year only houses where conditions were more or less dangerous to life and limb or where other special conditions existed could be proceeded with.

This "stop and start" method of slum clearance, unfortunately, whilst of course helping the occupants of the houses actually dealt with, does result in a large number of open spaces in the Borough, all of rather small area and consequently difficult to redevelop or use advantageously.

What is really wanted is a large scale systematic attack on whole streets so that at the end of dealing with a particular area or locality one can look back and say that such and such an area is now free from slums, which at present is only possible in a very few of the older parts of the Borough.

As the year under review brings to an end the first five years of the present slum clearance programme it seems an opportune time to look back and summarise the progress made so far and in this connection the following tables giving figures up to end of 1960 may be of interest. The figures given relate only to houses where slum clearance action was commenced on or after 1st September, 1955.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Number of Clearance Areas declared	17
Number of unfit houses included in such areas	186
Number of such houses included in Compulsory Purchase Orders	34
Number of other houses included in Compulsory Purchase Orders	3
Number of unfit houses demolished	173
Number of other houses demolished ("grey" properties) ...	3
Number of persons displaced from unfit and other houses ("grey" properties)	606
(including 15 persons from "grey" properties)	

Individual Unfit Houses or Parts of Buildings.

(a) For Demolition:

Number of houses represented as unfit	285
Number of unfit houses demolished	155
Number of persons displaced from unfit houses	613

(b) (i) For Closing (Whole Houses):

Number of houses represented as unfit	41
Number of unfit houses closed	36
Number of persons displaced from houses closed	150

(ii) For Closing (Part of a Building):

Number of parts of buildings represented as unfit	1
Number of parts of buildings closed	1
Number of persons displaced from such buildings	5

Summarising the above figures it will be seen that 513 unfit houses have been dealt with initially of which 365 have been demolished and 1,359 persons have been displaced. The vast majority of this latter number of persons have, of course, been rehoused in municipal houses.

The total programme, as amended from time to time, now includes some 1,237 unfit houses (as at 19th April, 1961). Of these houses, some 598 had been dealt with (by representation) at the end of 1960, leaving some 639 remaining to be dealt with.

We are therefore roughly now at the half-way stage. In view of the many hold-ups experienced since the programme started this may be considered to be fairly satisfactory, particularly as the original period for dealing with the houses in the programme given to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was 15 years, of which only five have of course elapsed.

Houses Demolished during 1960.

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
<i>In Clearance Areas.</i>			
Houses unfit for human habitation...	51	56	15
Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	1	2	1
Houses on land acquired under Section 43, Housing Act, 1957 (or Sec- tion 27, Housing Act, 1936) ...	—	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas.

As a result of formal or informal pro- cedure under Section 11, Hous- ing Act, 1936, or Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957 ...	36	122	41
Local Authority-owned houses (unfit)	19	47	14

Unfit Houses Closed.

	Number	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
Under Sections 16, 17 or 35, Hous- ing Act, 1957 ...	7	26	6

OVERCROWDING.

12 cases of overcrowding investigated by my Department (involving 62 persons) were relieved during 1960—a further increase of 50 per cent. on the corresponding figure for 1959. It is gratifying to record again that the Council do not necessarily have regard to the *legal* standard of overcrowding in assessing the merits of these

cases and the majority of the cases relieved were, in fact, dealt with on the higher and more sensible "bedroom" standard. Overcrowding has been a social evil for many generations and its relegation to the annals of history still lies obscurely in the future.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

1960 was the first full year of the operation of the "standard grant" provisions of the Housing and House Purchase Act, 1959. There was, not surprisingly, a substantial increase in the demand for the standard grants when they became better known to the man in the street. He is perhaps not so familiar with the financial implications arising from improvement grants as a whole. There is evidence that the demand for these grants, beginning as a trickle, is now developing into a flood, presenting a heavy financial burden to a Local Authority. Financial considerations should not, and must not, however, be allowed to stand in the way of an ambitious scheme to bring every house in this country to a reasonable standard of comfort to which a bathroom and a hot water supply contribute so much. Indeed no apology need be expressed for repeating what has been said so often, that a new housing standard, enforceable by law, should be introduced as quickly as possible requiring owners of properties to provide these and other essential amenities with an assurance that a reasonable return for capital outlay will be forthcoming.

There were no applications for discretionary grants during the year but one such grant was made for a scheme approved in the preceding year.

		Stand- ard	Discretion- ary
1. Number of applications received	...	68	Nil
2. Number of applications approved	...	58	Nil
3. Number of applications refused	...	2	Nil
4. Number of applications not proceeded with by applicants	... ..	1	Nil
5. Number completed during the year	...	39	1
6. Total cost of works/amenities	...	£10,797	£3,023
7. Total amount of grant given	...	£5,264	£150

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND CONSERVANCY.

Only 15 premises are not connected to a public sewer, all by reason of inaccessibility. The substantial works of increasing the capacity of the Council's sewage disposal plant were completed during the year and disposal of sewage may now therefore be considered reasonably satisfactory.

The capacity of certain sewers in the Borough to cope with sudden and heavy discharges of storm water is, however, inadequate and is a source of bitter complaint by residents whose premises are subject to flooding during heavy storms. Whilst the diffi-

culties are recognised and whilst the problem is not primarily one for this Department, the results of flooding of cellars, etc., by sewage backing up the house drains from surcharged sewers are of public health importance and, therefore, the concern of the Department. The matter becomes increasingly frustrating since, without substantial improvements, it is impossible to prevent the serious nuisances with which the Department is at times confronted.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to the whole of the Borough by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company remained entirely satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year. All the water is supplied in pipes, 16,126 houses and approximately 54,000 persons being supplied directly with water inside the houses and only 442 houses and approximately 1,500 persons being supplied from public mains by taps not actually inside the houses (e.g. by taps in external wash-houses). 19 houses are supplied by water from common standpipes. The water is derived mainly from deep bore holes and upland surface water, is filtered and chlorinated at source but not softened, and is not liable to cupro- or plumbo-solvency.

12 samples taken by the Water Company were bacteriologically satisfactory and 8 samples taken by the Department at consumers' premises for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were satisfactory.

CANALS AND WATER COURSES.

There is nothing to add to the comments made under this heading in the previous two years' annual reports, the general condition of the canals, in particular, having shown no substantial change.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) The number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations was as follows:—

1. Dealers' (Pasteurising Plant)	1
2. Dealers':—	
(a) Pasteurised	11
(b) Tuberculin Tested	6
(c) Sterilised	82
3. Supplementary:—	
(a) Pasteurised	15
(b) Tuberculin Tested	14
(c) Sterilised	15
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(b) Number of registered milk distributors retailing milk in the Borough whose premises are located:—

1. In the Borough	...	...	...	82
2. Outside the Borough	...	...	...	15

(c) Number of samples of pasteurised milk taken from the sole pasteurising dairy in the Borough:—

			Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
(i) for bacteriological examination	...	...	41	—
(ii) for chemical analysis	...	...	41	2

Number of samples of designated milk taken which originated outside the district:—

(i) for bacteriological examination	...	...	18	—
(ii) for chemical analysis	...	...	19	—

Number of samples of pasteurised dairy cream taken from a dairy in the Borough carrying out own separation:—

(i) for bacteriological examination	...	...	11	—
(ii) for chemical analysis	...	...	11	—

Number of samples of washed milk bottles ... 71 1

It is pleasant to record that, for the second year running, there were no adverse reports on the bacteriological condition of samples of fresh cream taken from the sole dairy in the district. There is no doubt that in-bottle pasteurisation has solved the problem of the prevention of post-pasteurisation contamination of fresh cream in the small dairy where the relatively small gallonage dealt with militates against the provision of separate pasteurisation and bottle filling plant for cream.

1960 saw the last year of issue of the **annual** licences for dealers in designated bottled milk. The annual issue of these licences to shopkeepers and others has long been of doubtful benefit and has involved an unnecessary amount of clerical work. The five-year licences introduced by the 1960 Regulations will substantially reduce the paper work involved but one wonders why dealers' licences for the sale of sterilised milk from shops could not have been abolished altogether. The keeping qualities of sterilised milk in sealed bottles rank with those of most canned foods and it is difficult to see why sterilised milk in bottles now requires different administrative control from bottled sterilised cream.

Two informal samples of school milk were slightly deficient in fat. Formal follow-up samples were of the required standard and enquiry revealed that the sub-standard milk had been supplied direct to a local dairy by the Milk Marketing Board with whom the matter was satisfactorily taken up.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION.

The number of food animals slaughtered at the sole private slaughterhouse in the Borough showed a slight decrease on the number for 1959. The meat produced throughout the year was of a very satisfactory quality and the premises were again kept in a clean condition. No animals were killed privately on unlicensed premises.

Meat and Other Foods Condemnation for the year 1960.

					Weight			
					T.	C.	Q.	Lbs. Ozs.
Carcase Meat and Offal (from sole private slaughterhouse)					...	...	10	2 0 0
Other Foodstuffs:—								
No. of tins, pkts., etc					T.	C.	Weight	
							Q.	Lbs. Ozs.
18	Ham	...	...	...			3	4 4
203	Meat	...	...	...	4	3	7	15
73	Fish	...	...	...			1	7 14½
431	Vegetables	...	...	...	3	1	0	4
396	Fruit	...	...	...	4	1	12	15
40	Soups and Stews	...	...	...			1	4 4½
165	Milk	...	...	...	2	1	15	0½
1	Nuts	...	...	...				4
	Carcase Meat	...	...	...	2	0	10	12
1	Fish Paste	...	...	...				2
4	Fruit Juices	...	...	...				4 8
17	Cream	...	...	...				12 12
4	Cheese	...	...	...			2	27 0
10	Sauces/Pickles	...	...	...				2 7½
5	Beverages/Cordials	...	...	...				2 0
25	Puddings	...	...	...				23 5½
9	Jellies	...	...	...			1	12
	Cakes	...	...	...				3 7
6	Syrup	...	...	...				9 0
2	Coffee	...	...	...				6
7	Jams	...	...	...				8 0
	Bacon	...	...	...			1	2 0
	Butter	...	...	...			1	0 0
1	Tongue	...	...	...				12
					1	0	0	21 1½
Plus slaughterhouse condemnations					...	10	2	0 0
					1	10	2	21 1½

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Number killed	240	—	19	806	643	—	1	1,709
Number inspected	240	—	19	806	643	—	1	1,709
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis								
1) Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	90	—	—	50	76	—	—	
3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis ..	37.50	—	—	6.20	11.81	—	—	
Tuberculosis only								
1) Whole carcase condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	—	—	—	21	—	—	
3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.41	—	—	—	3.26	—	—	
Cysticercosis								
1) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2) Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3) Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Meat Inspection, 1960

Reason for Condemnation:

1) Cattle (including Calves)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Car- cases</i>	<i>Head and Tongue</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Mesen- teries</i>	<i>Thick Skirts</i>	<i>Udders</i>
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—
Ascariasis	—	—	1	—	51	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	—	—	6	—	3	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Emphysema	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Actinobacillosis	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia and Pleurisy ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	—	6	11	2	64	1	—	—	—

2) Sheep

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Car- cases</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Mesen- teries</i>	<i>Omenta</i>	<i>Heads</i>
Pneumonia and Congestion ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection	17	26	—	—	1	—	—	—
Abscesses	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pericarditis	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Emphysema	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	26	27	3	—	1	—	—	1

(3) Pigs

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Mesen- teries</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Joints</i>
Tuberculosis ..	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Congestion and Pleurisy ..	—	54	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	—	19	—	—
Parasitic Infection ..	—	—	17	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Arthritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Abscesses ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	24	54	17	—	19	7	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

As a result of the co-operation of the owner of the private slaughterhouse and submission to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of a report on the slaughtering facilities in the Borough in accordance with the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the premises were brought up to the new standard required by the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 during the year. No objection was therefore made to the Council's report to the Ministry and the Minister subsequently confirmed the date (1st January, 1961) as the date on which the above Regulations were to apply fully to the one slaughterhouse in the district. Now that official policy on slaughtering has apparently been settled for the foreseeable future, meat supplies in this district will mainly come, as in the past, from the large abattoirs in adjoining districts — an arrangement which is apparently satisfactory to the local butchers.

DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND MEAT AND FOOD.

Unsound meat and offals from the private slaughterhouse continued to be disposed of, after staining, to a firm in an adjoining district for making fertilisers, etc. All other unsound foodstuffs were disposed of satisfactorily by the Department at Titford Tip.

No inspection of large or special consignments of food was required during the year.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following food businesses were carried on during the year:—

Wholesale grocers	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers and confectioners	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers (including sausage manufacturers)	...	...	...	...	48
Grocers (retail)	...	...	...	...	138
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	29
Catering establishments (excluding factory canteens)	...	...	...	...	18
Industrial canteens	...	...	...	...	37
Fish shops (fried)	...	...	...	...	14
Sweets, confectionery and ice cream	...	...	...	...	54

Fish and greencrocery	...	...	...	...	7
Wet fish retailers	...	...	...	...	1
Hotels	...	...	...	...	5
General	...	...	...	...	26
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	102
Food factories (2 confectionery, 1 vinegar, 1 malt flour)	...	...	...	...	4
					<hr/> 491 <hr/>

The following food premises were registered by the Council at the end of the year:—

(a) *Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:*

Sausage Preparation	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Manufacturing	3
Retail Ice Cream	104

(b) *Under Milk and Dairies Regulations:*

Dairies	1
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(c) *Under Section 69 of Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949:*

Grocers	1
Greengrocers	8
Butchers	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	5

187 inspections of registered premises (including 71 re-visits) were carried out during the year. The total figure of 219 visits to food premises showed a decrease on the 1959 figure due to pre-occupation with a smoke control area referred to elsewhere in this report. With the increased establishment in the Department late in 1960 it is hoped to pay increased attention in 1961 to these important duties of the Department. The necessity for food hygiene will always be with us and experience shows that there is no more valuable deterrent to malpractices at food premises than the regular call of a Public Health Inspector.

Improvements Effected to Food Premises.

The Table below summarises the main improvements effected at food premises during the year:—

Premises repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Wash basins provided	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	3
Additional hot water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	2
Floor coverings provided	...	...	...	...	3
New counters provided and others repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Screens provided to foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	3

First-aid facilities provided	...	...	...	1
Lockers provided	...	...	...	1
Water closets cleansed and/or repaired	...	...	...	1
Clean hands notices provided	...	...	...	1

100 bacteriological swabs were taken of utensils and equipment in food preparing premises, of which only 5 per cent. were unsatisfactory. Of the latter, two were taken in a local bakery and the other three in small cafes, one of which subsequently closed during the year; the other was the subject of a special report to the Health Committee early in 1961. Although swabbing of cafe crockery, etc., is perhaps controversial, it plays a useful part in the Department's efforts to improve catering hygiene since it often reveals unsatisfactory methods of washing up, or faulty handling and storage of washed crockery. The reaction by a cafe proprietor to being told that cups or forks, etc., showed the presence of organisms derived from the human bowel is, at times, very illuminating and has a far more dramatic effect than recounting the arid requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FOOD VEHICLES.

One food vending vehicle was registered during the year under the Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949, to bring the total food hawkers known to operate in the district to 16.

ICE CREAM AND LOLLIES.

Only two small manufacturers of ice cream (by complete cold mix methods) actually produced ice cream in the Borough during the year. 11 samples taken from their premises were bacteriologically very satisfactory and the chemical composition (fat, non-fatty solids, etc.) met the legal requirements but again fell short of the large manufacturers' own standards.

4 other samples of ice cream produced outside the Borough were satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

5 samples of 145 taken during the year for chemical analysis were found to be adulterated or otherwise unsatisfactory. These samples were:—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Nature</i>	<i>Adulteration</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1 (informal)	Milk	10 per cent. deficient in fat	Formal sample genuine
1 (informal)	Milk	10 per cent. deficient in fat	Formal sample genuine
1 (informal)	Currants	Presence of vegetable debris	Firm given warning
1 (informal)	Whipping Cream	1.6 per cent. deficient in fat	Formal sample taken (see below)
1 (formal)	Whipping Cream	1.6 per cent. deficient in fat.	Firm given strong warning
1 (informal)	Milk	Presence of foreign matter unidentifiable by naked eye	Foreign matter later identi- fied as large mould growth Firm given strong warning

The percentage and nature of the unsatisfactory samples closely resembled those for the preceding year and again indicated minor and/or accidental deficiencies, maintaining the pattern of the post-war years.

Other samples taken were:—

<i>Article Sampled</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Article Sampled</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Biscuits	1	Marzipan	1
Brandy	1	Milk	63
Butter	1	Nerve tonic	1
Chocolate confectionery	3	Orange curd	1
Christmas pudding	1	Pepper	1
Colouring	1	Rice pudding, canned	1
Cream, fresh	14	Rum	1
Cream, sterilised	1	Sausages, tinned	1
Fish, canned	2	Soft drinks	1
Fish paste	1	Soups	1
Flour confectionery	3	Spice	1
Flour, plain	1	Spread	1
Fruit, canned	3	Sugar confectionery	9
Fruit, dried	3	Tablets, bronchial	1
Gin	1	Tablets, cough	2
Headache powders	1	Tablets, indigestion	2
Ice cream and lollies	10	Tablets, pep	1
Jam	1	Tea	1
Jelly	1	Whisky	1
Lemonade crystals	1		
Liver puree	1		
Luncheon meat	1		
Margarine	1		

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FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD.

Once again it is disturbing to record that 7 articles of food were brought to the office in 1960 and in every case the nature of the complaint justified a report to the Health Committee. Each case was dealt with on its merits but, the Council having hardened its attitude to this type of food offence, 4 prosecutions reported overleaf were taken against firms which had previously been given warnings by the Council. Although the difficulties of firms are known and appreciated some of the cases arose from reprehensible negligence to deal properly with perishable foodstuffs which is not expected of experienced personnel in the food trades. When food traders talk of "keeping an incident in perspective" as one case in thousands or millions of articles produced, it is as well to keep in perspective the fact that local authorities deal only with those few cases which are brought to their notice which must also be a tiny percentage of the "foreign bodies" actually found by consumers. Local authorities may therefore perhaps be forgiven for suspecting that cases of the kind recorded below are more widespread than certain persons would have them believe.

<i>Nature of Contamination/ Unsoundness</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1. Mouldy pork pie	Firm given warning.
2. Mouldy trifles	Firm prosecuted and fined £5.
3. Meat pies containing fly maggots	Firm prosecuted and fined £5.
4. Bottle of milk containing mould growth	Firm given warning.
5. Mouldy pork pie	Firm prosecuted and fined £10.
6. Decomposing rabbit joints	Firm prosecuted and fined £5.
7. Cereals infested with insects	Firm given warning.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937—1959.

No problems arose from the work of the Department under the above Acts which was of a routine nature.

1. Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	213	8	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	7	—	—	—
	226	8	3	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted</i>
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Referred By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7).					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	2	—
Total	2	2	—	3	—

OUTWORK

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)</i>	<i>Section 110</i>		<i>Section 111</i>		<i>Prosecutions</i>
		<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)</i>	<i>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)</i>	<i>Notices Served (6)</i>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper.	2	—	—	—	—	—

OFFICES.

Although the year saw the placing of the Offices Act, 1960, on the Statute Book, the Act will not come into force until associated regulations prescribing minimum standards of hygiene for offices have been introduced. Comment would, therefore, at this stage, be premature, since it is not anticipated that the appropriate regulations will be made within the next two years.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS.

The number of slaughtermen's licences issued during the year was 6.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Difficulties with the two offensive trade premises in the Borough were very much less than those experienced in 1959 when the very hot weather of that year created perhaps the worst conditions in the animal by-product trades ever remembered.

In fact no complaints against either of the firms were recorded during the year—the satisfactory standards of the premises being confirmed by routine inspections by Inspectors.

AIR POLLUTION.

INDUSTRIAL SMOKE AND GRIT.

The table overleaf shows the main improvements effected by industry at the instigation of this Department. These improvements, together with those listed in previous reports, show that industry as a whole continues to face up to its obligations under the Clean Air Act, particularly with regard to dark smoke. The position is being rapidly approached where the installation of modern equipment to prevent **dark smoke** in all industrial undertakings will have been completed and, except for breakdown in plant, etc., prolonged dense smoke emissions will be a thing of the past. During the year, in fact, one of the firms which had been granted an exemption certificate under the Act completed the conversion of its remaining 11 furnaces to gas firing and to mechanical stoker firing, thus permitting the withdrawal of the exemption certificate. Only one firm now has an exemption certificate, and at this factory all replacements of old obsolescent furnaces by new plant will be completed in the next two years.

The position with regard to grit and dust emissions is not so satisfactory. Whilst several firms have continued to install the more elaborate (and therefore more expensive) grit and dust arrestors, particularly on new plants, resistance is encountered against the installation of more efficient collecting equipment on existing installations. The matter is bedevilled by the loose wording of the Clean Air Act, which requires steps to be taken to "minimise" grit and dust on fuel burning plants below a certain capacity (which are all but the few very large industrial boilers) and the fact that some serious dust and grit emissions not arising from fuel combustion do not come within the scope of the Clean Air Act but

within the notoriously cumbersome nuisance provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I repeat, therefore, what has been said in a previous report, that the grit and dust problem will not be satisfactorily solved until precise standards for grit and dust analogous with those for smoke are prescribed by law. Before leaving the question of "industrial" smoke which for the purposes of this report includes the railways' contribution, it is as well perhaps to observe that, whilst increasing dieselisation is reducing the **total** amount of smoke from the railways, diesel smoke and smuts from trains passing in the close vicinity of houses often causes complaint from householders who, almost invariably, attribute the nuisance to a nearby factory. The answer, it is said, lies in the proper maintenance of the diesel engines but, in view of the experience of diesel engines on the road, one may be forgiven for being sceptical; perhaps the only real answer is electrification.

Improvements in industrial air pollution.

Enamelled products factory	Dense smoke from furnaces	Faulty oil-firing rectified
Plastics factory	Black smoke from boiler chimney	Faulty coal tar fuel firing remedied
Non-ferrous metal foundry	Excessive fume emissions at low level and from stack	Stack height raised to 120 feet and control of ground level emissions tightened
Chemical manufacturing works	Fumes from acid manufacturing plant	Absorption tower re-packed
Iron foundry	Grit nuisance from shot blasting plant	Defective bag filters replaced
Chemical manufacturing works	Acid mist from acid producing plant	Referred to District Alkali Inspector. Defect on absorption tower rectified
Steel scrap merchants	Smoke nuisance from burning out tankers	Practice discontinued following notice
Iron foundry	Smoke from lighting up cupola	Gas ignition provided to cupola
Iron and steel rolling mills	Dark smoke from mobile crane boilers	Crane boilers converted to oil firing
Asphalt manufacturing works	Dust emission from plant	Undertaking given to install more modern grit collecting equipment
Blue brick manufacturing works	Black and dense smoke emissions from kilns	Works closed down
Scrap metal factory	Black smoke from cable burning	Practice discontinued after notice
Chemical manufacturing works	Foul odours from removal of chemical waste	Undertaking given not to resume offending methods of removal
Chemical manufacturing works	Offensive odours from insecticide manufacturing plant	Mechanical defects remedied, and plant processing schedule altered
Manufacturing Chemists	Dark smoke from Cornish boiler	Mechanical stoker fitted
Confectionery factory	Grit from Cochran boilers	Grit arrestors fitted to boilers
Steel tube factory	Dark smoke from annealing furnaces	Hand-fired furnaces converted to town gas firing and existing mechanical stokers on other furnaces reconditioned
Iron forge	Dark smoke from large heat treatment furnace	New furnace provided with oil firing
Iron foundry	Fume emissions from metal pouring	Mechanical exhaust ventilation of foundry "shop" installed and emissions affecting houses reduced

DOMESTIC SMOKE.

The detailed survey of the Borough's first smoke control area involving 979 municipal houses and three schools on the Brandhall Estate having been completed, the financial and other implications were reported to the Health Committee at the end of the year. The Health Committee approved the submission of the Oldbury No. 1 (Brandhall) smoke Control Order to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation in 1961. This marked the first milestone in the long road to the removal of the smoke pall from 17,000 domestic premises tightly packed into a little over 3,000 acres. No illusions are fostered that this road will not be arduous and, at times, exasperating, for it would be idle to pretend that all classes of society are kindly disposed towards domestic smoke control. Nevertheless it is an essential part of the task of cleaning up the large cities and towns of this country which must be carried out insistently and as fast as it is reasonably possible to do so. Like improvement grants, the financial implications will have to be faced but there need be no doubt that, when the effects are seen over wide areas, the most sceptical and cynical will be won over. The battle of the 1860's must be fought again in the 1960's—the target clean air instead of clean water, the weapons smokeless fuels and modern appliances instead of chlorine and piped supplies. In this connection the greatest fillip for domestic smoke control would be a reduction in the price of smokeless fuels to one comparable with that of bituminous coal.

MEASUREMENT OF POLLUTION.

Measurements continued for the second full year of air pollution from all sources and the figures recorded are shown in the Table below. The figures for grit and dust shown by the four deposit gauges were slightly in excess of the figures for 1959 but this is probably attributable to the heavier rainfall in 1960 carrying down into the collecting bowls greater quantities of suspended matter. The figures for sulphur dioxide by the lead peroxide instruments are also slightly higher than the corresponding figures for 1959. This again may be due to the wetter atmospheres over longer periods since moisture increases the rate of sulphation of the lead peroxide on the candle. Whilst this method of measuring sulphur has been adopted by most local authorities over 17 years on the advice of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, towards the end of the year serious doubts of the advisability of retaining this method of recording sulphur pollution were being expressed by the same Government Department. It seems likely, therefore, that these instruments will largely go out of use in the next few years, being retained only in special local circumstances. In this district there is possibly only a case for retaining the Albright Schools lead peroxide instrument which is useful in assessing the emissions from the sulphuric acid producing plants. The daily volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus and smoke recorder, which is the most useful of all the instruments in recording general smoke and sulphur pollution, gave figures a little

lower than those for 1959 and, in view of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research's latest advice on air pollution measurement, it may be better to install a second daily smoke and sulphur apparatus in an appropriate position at the expense of the lead peroxide instruments.

Deposit Gauges (deposited matter in tons/sq. mile).

<i>Month</i>			<i>Portway Depot</i>	<i>Albright Schools</i>	<i>Langley Park</i>	<i>Perryfields School s</i>
January	..	..	23·12	27·57	32·40	9·60
February	..	..	18·52	26·60	24·05	11·34
March	..	..	25·92	38·22	21·73	10·74
April	..	..	13·72	21·21	16·00	15·04
May	..	..	20·89	24·36	15·14	29·02
June	..	..	20·04	24·89	24·03	16·01
July	..	..	17·17	22·14	17·51	9·57
August	..	..	20·97	29·50	19·33	12·68
September	..	..	22·19	14·58	28·17	27·00
October	..	..	24·58	27·60	26·29	—
November	..	..	21·82	42·19	24·94	11·34
December	..	..	—	33·75	27·37	12·58
Totals			228·94	332·61	276·96	164·92
Averages			20·81	27·71	23·08	14·99

Lead Peroxide Instruments
(Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected in mg/100 cm²).

<i>Month</i>			<i>Broadwell Park</i>	<i>Albright Schools</i>	<i>Langley Park</i>	<i>Perryfields Schools</i>
January	..	..	5·23	5·79	4·22	4·50
February	..	..	2·88	2·94	1·83	3·14
March	..	..	0·95	2·40	2·01	1·13
April	..	..	2·86	2·92	3·31	3·08
May	..	..	2·59	2·81	2·66	3·65
June	..	..	1·11	2·12	1·20	5·78
July	..	..	2·87	4·98	2·83	1·71
August	..	..	1·39	1·07	1·39	1·54
September	..	..	1·73	2·57	2·02	1·49
October	..	..	2·73	2·93	2·60	2·85
November	..	..	3·24	3·00	2·77	2·49
December	..	..	3·08	2·90	2·73	2·92
Totals			30·66	36·43	29·57	34·28
Averages			2·25	3·03	2·46	2·85

Daily Volumetric Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus.

(Smoke—expressed in mg/100m³ of air; Sulphur Dioxide—expressed as parts per 100,000,000 parts of air)

<i>Month</i>			<i>SMOKE</i>			<i>SULPHUR DIOXIDE</i>		
			<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>
January	..	..	28	90	4	4·1	11·6	0·3
February	..	..	27	60	3	5·7	16·7	0·6
March	..	..	18	37	3	3·9	9·0	0·9
April	..	..	10	23	2	4·0	7·0	1·7
May	..	..	8	14	3	4·1	7·2	0·3
June	..	..	5	11	2	2·3	5·6	0·3
July	..	..	4	8	1	1·4	3·4	0·3
August	..	..	6	13	1	1·8	4·9	0·3
September	..	..	9	22	4	3·5	13·8	1·0
October	..	..	19	45	6	3·0	5·4	0·5
November	..	..	18	69	4	1·9	7·4	0·2
December	..	..	31	92	4	3·5	9·0	0·4
Averages			15·2	40·3	3·1	3·2	8·4	0·5

CHIMNEY HEIGHTS.

An important duty of the Health Committee is to approve the height of new industrial chimneys. This is often by no means an easy task to perform. With the increasing evidence of the harmful effects of flue gases before him, the public health inspector, in recommending a suitable height for a chimney to ensure that by the time the gases reach ground level they are sufficiently diluted and dispersed so as not to cause harm to the public, finds himself sometimes in strong opposition to the designing engineer and architect who are more influenced by costs and mechanical and architectural factors. A high chimney is no longer required as it was 50 years ago to produce a satisfactory draught for a new boiler installation, nor is it pleasing to the architect and town planner because of its "adverse effect" upon the skyline and the adjoining buildings. The chimney can function quite well with mechanical draught and cost perhaps half what the public inspector wants. Several formulæ have been put forward by scientific bodies for calculating chimney heights and, whilst these have been used at times with some success, there are so many variables in their use, that the results of the calculations are not universally acceptable. Commonsense must therefore still be employed, especially where there is undulating topography, congestion of buildings, etc. Again — sooner or later — standards must be prescribed for the maximum allowable concentration of grit and gases at ground level from a new chimney so that the problem can be removed from the field of guess-work and the firm, engineer, architect and local authorities can know exactly where they stand.

GASES FROM ALKALI ETC. WORKS.

No report on air pollution in this Borough would be complete without some reference to the gases emitted from the chemical industries. The majority of the noxious gases are controlled by the District Alkali Inspector under the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act, 1906, and the excellent liaison between him and this office was maintained throughout the year. Liaison alone, however, cannot prevent nuisance or complaint and whilst most of the emissions causing nuisance were speedily dealt with, it is necessary to record that malodours associated with faulty operation of a plant manufacturing the basic ingredient of an insecticide caused widespread complaint over several months in the latter half of the year. The nuisance was at times severe and recalled to a lesser degree the unfortunate experiences with the "tom cat" smell which by its mercaptanic nature it resembles. Direct representations to the firm by this Department and the efforts of the firm and Alkali Inspector to locate the cause of the trouble, which was not at first obvious, finally remedied the troubles. Apart from this plant, the many processes in the three major "chemical works" were carried on quite satisfactorily throughout the year, occasioning little complaint from the public. Such emissions from processes registered under the Alkali Act which called for attention were referred both to the Central Inspectorate and the firms by this Department, which maintains an increasing vigil on the works in question.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine work of rat and mouse destruction was continued at a satisfactory level during the year. No problems arose from this service which is still recognised as essential, even though the somewhat spectacular kills of rats are no longer seen. A "hard core" of rodent infestation — possibly an irreducible minimum — now remains which must continue to be "controlled" to avoid what would otherwise almost certainly be a rapid increase in the rodent population to the proportions seen only a few years ago. This is not to say that some economies, particularly in relation to routine treatments of sewers, could not be effected without adverse results and it is proposed to modify the two annual routine treatments of sewers for a trial period of one year to assess the position.

During the year the Rodent Operative was transferred to Portway Depot to increase the office accommodation of the Department. This arrangement has worked quite satisfactorily.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Column No.	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses)	All other (incl. Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) and (3)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's district	41	15,654	1,301	16,996	2
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	14	117	46	177	1
(b) Survey under the Act	5	18	4	27	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	18	907	165	1,090	—
3. Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	56	2,653	473	3,182	4
4. No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats—Major	—	1	—	1	—
Minor	4	82	26	112	1
(b) Mice—Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	9	34	20	63	—
5. No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	13	117	46	176	1
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	14	117	54	185	1
7. No. of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	1	1	—
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. No. of cases in which default action was taken following a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. No. of "Block" Control schemes carried out—NIL					

CANAL BOATS.

22 canal boats remained on the register at the end of the year, there having been no new registrations during 1960. No problems arose from the administration of the Public Health Act and Canal Boat Regulations.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

61 houses (including 31 municipal houses) were treated for infestation during the year. These figures show an increase of about one-third on the figures for 1959 and were about the annual average for the Department. All were successfully controlled by the wide variety of insecticides now available.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Routine sampling of the water at the Council's Vicarage Road baths was again carried out. The water in use is the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's main supply and is therefore of a high bacteriological and chemical standard in the first instance. Maintenance of satisfactory bacteriological and chemical conditions is ensured by mechanical circulation of the water, purification by pressure filters with added coagulant, accurate control of pH and chlorination by chloronome. The water in each of the two baths is changed completely once every 4 hours and 8 samples taken during the swimming season for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were entirely satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences issued during the year to keep pet shops was 3, one shop having closed down at the end of 1959.

STAFF.

For the second year in succession I am glad to report the success of a pupil in the Department (Mr. R. A. Maddock) who obtained his Public Health Inspector's Certificate in June, 1960, and was duly appointed Additional Public Health Inspector on the 1st August, 1960.

The training scheme, initiated by the Committee in 1956, is of course now bearing fruit, and the Department is well staffed with Inspectors.

The Chief Clerk in the Department, Mr. Hackett, left the employment of the Council in May, 1960, after 11 years' service which he commenced as a youth shortly after leaving school and was succeeded on the 1st July by Mr. Whittard.

Miss Hackett joined the Department as a Junior Clerk/Short-hand Typist on the 10th October, 1960, following the transfer of Mr. Maddock to the Inspectorial staff.

CONCLUSION.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and my colleagues in other Departments for the help, co-operation and support they have given me during the year.

I would also like to record my sincere thanks to all members of my staff, both Inspectors and Clerks, for their loyal work during a year which has seen developments bringing yet more work upon their shoulders. A happy atmosphere prevails in the Department and I think this reflects itself in the standard of work carried out which ultimately results in what we all desire—better service for the community as a whole.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. MASON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Municipal Buildings, Oldbury.

April, 1961.

NOTE—Commencing with this year a separate Annual Report will be published on the Public Cleansing Service for which I am also responsible and this will follow when the necessary statistical information is available.